Mr. Myers

AP US History

The Declaration of the People, against Sir William Berkeley, and Present Governors of Virginia

For having upon specious Pretences of public Works raised unjust Taxes, upon the Commonality, for advancing of Private favorites. And other sinister Ends, but no visible Effect, in any measure adequate.

For not having during the Long time of his Government, in any Measure advanced, this hopeful colony, either by Fortifications, Towns, or Trade.

For having abused, and rendered contemptible, his Mates: Justice, by advancing to Places of Judicature, scandalous, and ignorant favorites.

For having wronged his mates: Prerogative, and Interest, by assuming the monopoly of the beaver Trade.

For having in that unjust gain, betrayed and sold, His Mate: country, and the Liberties of his loyal Subjects to the Barbarous Heathen.

For having, Protected, favored, and emboldened the Indians against his Mates: most loyal Subjects; never Contriving, requiring, or appointing any due or proper means of Satisfaction; for their many Incursions, murders, and Robberies, Committed upon Us.

For having when the army of the English, was upon the Tract of the Indians, which now in all Places, burn soil, and Murder, And when we might with ease, have destroyed them, who were in open hostility.

For having expressly, countermanded, and sent back, our army, by Passing his word, for the Peaceable demeanors of the said Indians, who immediately prosecuted their evil Intentions-Committing horrid Murders and Robberies, in all Places, being Protected by the said Engagement, and word passed by Him the said Sir: Wm: Berkeley having Ruined and made Desolate, a great Part of his Mates: country, having now drawn themselves into such obscure and remote places, and are by their success so emboldened and Confirmed, and the Terror, and Consternation of the People so great, That They are not only become difficult, but very formidable enemy Who might with Ease have been destroyed.

When upon the loud outcries of Blood, the Assembly had with all Care, raised and framed an army, for the Prevention of future mischief, and safe guard of his Mates: colony.

For having only with the privacy of a few favorites, without the acquainting of the People, only by Alteration of a Figure forged a Commission, by I know not what hand, not only without, but against the Consent of the People, for the Raising and Effecting of civil war, and Destruction, which being happily and without Bloodshed prevented. For having the second tome attempted the same, thereby calling down our forces from the defense of the frontiers, and most weakened and Exposed Places, for the prevention of civil mischief, and ruin amongst our selves; while the barbarous enemy in all places did Invade Murder and spoil us, his Mates: loyal Subjects.

Of these the aforesaid Articles we accuse Sr. Wm: Berkeley as guilty of Each and every of the same. As one who hath traitorously attempted, violated and Injured his Mates: Interest here, by the loss of a great part of his Mates: colony, and many of his faithful and loyal Subjects, by Him betrayed in a Barbarous and shameful Manner Exposed to the Incursion, and murder of the Heathen. And We further declare the Ensuing Persons in the List be forthwith delivered up, or Surrender Themselves, within four days after the notice hereof, or otherwise we declare as follows.

That in whatsoever place, House, or shop, any of the said Persons shall Reside, be hid, or protected, we do declare the Owners, Master and Inhabitants of the sais Parties, to be Confederates, traitors to the People and the Estates, of them; as also of all the aforesaid Persons, to be Confiscated, this we the Commons of Virginia so declare.

Desiring a firm union amongst our Selves, that we may jointly and with one accord defend out selves against the Common enemy, and let not the faults of the guilty, be the Reproach of the Innocent, or the faults and Crimes of the oppressors, divide and separate us who have suffered, by their oppressions.

These are therefore in his mates: name to command you: forthwith to seize the Persons above mentioned, as traitors to the King, and country, and Them to bring to the Middle Plantations, and there to secure them till further Order and in Case of opposition, if you: want any further Assistance, you are forthwith to demand It. In the name of the People, in all the Countries of Virginia.

Nathaniel Bacon

General, by Consent of the People.

Mr. Myers

US History

1. In terms of trade, what is Bacon accusing Berkeley of doing? Why would this accusation be such a “despicable” action for the settlers?
2. According to the document, what is Bacon upset about in terms of the Indians?
3. What does he think should have been done to rectify the situation?
4. With what authority is Bacon attempting to arrest Berkeley? Why would he choose this as the state or country in which he has authority?
5. What, essentially, is Bacon attempting to do to the Virginia Colony with this proclamation?